

Minutes
Minnesota Sunflower Council
Conference Call – 7:30 AM – October 20, 2015

Members Present: John Swanson; Kevin Capistran; Steven Schmidt, Jerry Hasnedl and Danny Payment

Others Present: Tina Mittelsteadt and John Sandbakken

The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 7:35 AM.

The minutes of the June 23, 2015, meeting were reviewed – **a motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry Hasnedl and seconded by Steven Schmidt. Motion passed.**

Tina Mittelsteadt provided the financial report for September, 2015. The Council collected \$772.64 in check-off funds and \$1.15 in interest. There were no expenses for the month of September. The MSC has a cash fund balance of \$28,413.36 as of September, 2015. **Kevin Capistran made a motion to approve the financial report and it was seconded by Jerry Hasnedl. Motion passed.**

The next agenda item was election of officers. **Jerry Hasnedl made a motion that all officers be reelected to their current positions if they are willing to serve: John Swanson as Chairman; Kevin Capistran as Vice Chairman and Steven Schmidt as Secretary/Treasurer. Danny Payment seconded the motion and it passed.**

The Minnesota Sunflower Council website was the next topic for discussion. Tina Mittelsteadt notified the council of the new student who is working on the MN Sunflower Council website. His name is Solomon Liebl. He is in the process of making the changes that were discussed and approved at the June 2015 meeting.

John Swanson was contacted by the State to see if there might be a sunflower project that the Council could work on with AURI. John asked Jerry Hasnedl to give us a background on AURI and what types of projects they work on. AURI's focus is to make enhancements to a product or end use products.

Other Business

Danny Payment is wondering if there is a way to get good plot data for varieties that grow well in Minnesota. He is noticing inconsistent yields. Sunflower are increasing in MN and feels this information would be beneficial. Producers are inquiring on which varieties work best and there is very little data to provide them.

Kevin stated the MN Sunflower Council could oversee the project and have the companies fund the plots. The problem is finding a grower willing to participate and do a good job.

Jerry asked what costs are involved and John Swanson stated the costs are about the same as a university trial. John also stated to do a good job you would want a duplicated trial and several locations. In North Dakota the Universities are running the sunflower plot trials.

John Swanson suggested visiting with the University of Minnesota and asking if they would be willing to do some trials again. Kevin stated it might be a good time to visit with them since we have had a favorable growing season. John Swanson stated they have a planter since he gave them one.

John Swanson volunteered to schedule a meeting with U of MN and suggested Danny Payment and possibly a seed company attend the meeting too. Funding would be an issue that would need to be worked out. Kevin asked how the Council would fee about committing \$10,000 to the project. John Swanson is going to contract Croplan and see if they would be interested in overseeing a plot study.

Tina mentioned that the audit for the MN Sunflower Council is in progress and should be completed shortly.

Kevin stated the NSA Research Committee is meeting tomorrow and indicated there is a Phomopsis project that might be worth looking at. John Sandbakken stated that this work has already been done. John Swanson also stated Febina Matthew is currently working on Phomopsis at SDSU. John Swanson has sent her samples from MN to be tested. John Sandbakken said Sam Markell just finished the first year of a Phomopsis treatment study and his results are looking favorable for the treatments used. Sam will be requesting a second year of funding for this project.

Next meeting date: **Kevin Capistran motioned to approve the date of Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 7:00 am at the Ramada Plaza Suites for the next MN Council meeting and Jerry Hasnedl seconded. Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 am

Chairman: _____

Secretary: _____